

ARTIST-CRAFTSMEN OF WESTERN EUROPE

An exhibition of contemporary crafts, executed by important artist-craftsmen of Western Europe, will open at The Cleveland Museum of Art on August 23. This exhibition entitled ARTIST-CRAFTSMEN OF WESTERN EUROPE was organized by The Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York and The American Federation of Arts. It is sponsored by the governments of the eight participating countries and gives a rare opportunity to Americans to study at first hand the high artistic quality of Western European handcrafts.

The most original and significant products from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland are shown. One hundred thirty-one artists participate, each contributing examples of his particular craft produced within the past five years. The objects were personally chosen by Robert A. Laurer, Associate Director of the Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York.

Types of crafts shown in the exhibition are: Glass and glass design, stained glass windows, jewelry, metalwork, ceramics, bookbinding, basket weaving, tapestries and a variety of handwoven fabrics used for wall hangings, rugs or clerical vestments.

Works from AUSTRIA, especially Vienna, display high quality craftsmanship in both traditional and contemporary forms. Particularly notable are the glass designs by Oswald Haerdtl of the Viennese Lobmeyr Company, one of the oldest and most important glass works in Europe.

Included in BELGIUM'S contribution are ceramic works by three prominent Belgian ceramists; Pierre Caille, Olivier Strebelle and Octave Landuyt. Although dominated by ceramics, the Belgian crafts also cover a wide range of other media. Mary Dambiermont, a designer for two leading Belgian tapestry factories, contributes examples of her skill. Stained glass windows, one by the internationally known Michel Martens, are on view.

FRENCH tapestry making and stained glass design have had international impact. Jean Lurcat, successful in reviving the French tapestry industry, and Mathieu Mategot exhibit their advance-style tapestries. On exhibit is stained glass by Max Ingrand, Gabriel Loire and Jean Barillet, whose windows are in buildings the world over. Pottery executed by ceramists at Vallauris, the best known pottery center in France, is also included. French bookbinding among the world's best, is represented by the work of Henri Mercher.

From GERMANY come classic and experimental ceramics by such notable German ceramic artists as Ingeborg and Bruno Asshoff, Heiner Balzar-Kopp, Celine von Eichborn, Signe and Klaus Lehmann, Hubert Griemert, Beate Kuhn and Karl Scheid. Proficient German metalworkers are represented in the exhibition by Hans Rheindorf.

Nourished by centuries of art since the Renaissance the ITALIAN handcraft techniques have preserved the old ways and enhanced the new. In the exhibition are selections of pottery from the internationally renowned work of Nino Caruso, Marcello Fantoni, Guido Gambone, Salvatore Meli and G. B. Valentini. Choice glass from Venice and Murano made by individuals and factories such as Barovier and Tocso, Barbini, Seguso, Salviati, Venini & Vianello will be on view. Italy's best known enamelist Paolo De Poli has sent his work.

THE NETHERLANDS offer The Delft experimental ceramics of Adriek Westenenk, Lies Cosijn and Sybren Valkema as well as the works of Meindert Zaalberg, dean of Dutch ceramists, potter Johan Van Loon and ceramist Jan Van der Vaart. Also shown are woven and embroidered fabrics by Greten Neter-Kahler, Ria Van Oerle Van Gorp and Gerda Beckers, and glass designs by Valkema, Floris Meydum and Willem Heesen.

In SPAIN the old and new in art exist together with new styles gradually infiltrating. Practical household objects by Manuel LaLorre Campos, Mercado de Artesania Espanola, Morato, The School of Ceramics in Madrid and The Talleres de Arte Granada dominate the Spanish exhibit.

Contemporary handcrafts know lively existence in SWITZERLAND. Examples of Swiss work exhibited are glass by the extraordinary Roberto Niederer, the ceramics of Ursel Luginbuhl, Jakob Stucki, Mario Mascarin and Margrit Linck-Daepf. The widely known ecclesiastical vestments of Sr. M. Augustina Flueler are also included as well as goldwork, some by the outstanding goldsmith Meinrad Burch-Korrodi. Woodcarving is also shown.

Most of the objects in the exhibition may be bought or ordered. The show closes on September 23.